

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 4

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commending the Indiana Department of Transportation on the management practices of the innovative Hoosier Roadside Heritage Program.

Tomes

January 6, 2014, read first time and referred to Committee on Homeland Security, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.



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1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commending the Indiana
2 Department of Transportation on the management practices of the
3 innovative Hoosier Roadside Heritage Program.

4 *Whereas, The roadside vegetation management practices*
5 *of Indiana and the federal government aim to secure motorist*
6 *safety, reduce the presence of noxious weeds, and stabilize*
7 *the soil to complement good soil and water conservation*
8 *practices;*

9 *Whereas, State and local highway departments are facing*
10 *severe budget shortfalls;*

11 *Whereas, Native forbs and grasses are less likely to*
12 *encroach onto roads than invasive species such as kudzu;*

13 *Whereas, Native forbs and grasses are best adapted to*
14 *local conditions and thus require less active management,*
15 *reducing the need to replant, weed, and mow the areas*
16 *adjacent to the road;*

17 *Whereas, Integrated vegetation management practices*
18 *reduce the cost of maintaining roadside vegetation, with the*
19 *Hoosier Roadside Heritage program saving Indiana \$45 per*
20 *acre a year in maintenance costs;*

21 *Whereas, Pollinators such as bees, birds, bats, and*
22 *butterflies are suffering drastic population loss, due in part*
23 *to habitat loss;*



1 *Whereas, Pollinators are vital to American agriculture and*
 2 *are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we*
 3 *eat;*

4 *Whereas, A diverse pollinator population is necessary to*
 5 *maintain the diversity of our plant life and food supply;*

6 *Whereas, Enhancing pollinator populations on*
 7 *rights-of-way can result in improved pollination for*
 8 *neighboring lands, including agriculture and wildlife*
 9 *ecosystems;*

10 *Whereas, Sound wildlife ecosystems help support Indiana's*
 11 *\$1.7 billion a year outdoor recreation industry; and*

12 *Whereas, Highway rights-of-way that are kept in a native*
 13 *state sequester carbon in the soil, and reduced mowing*
 14 *lowers greenhouse gasses, both of which help to prevent*
 15 *climate change: Therefore,*

16 *Be it resolved by the Senate*
 17 *of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,*
 18 *the House of Representatives concurring:*

19 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly commends the
 20 Indiana Department of Transportation for its innovative Hoosier
 21 Roadside Heritage Program, which saves taxpayer dollars, improves
 22 the environment, and supports agriculture production.

23 SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly further encourages
 24 the Indiana Department of Transportation to work with local
 25 governments and conservation groups to promote Hoosier Roadside
 26 Heritage Program maintenance practices throughout Indiana.

27 SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the
 28 Secretary of the Senate to the Indiana Department of Transportation.

